

REVIEW OF THE QUEENSLAND POMACANTHINÆ.

SUPPLEMENT No. 1.¹

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SINCE the publication of last year's "Memoirs" the following species has been discovered among the Old Collection of the Queensland Museum.

HOLACANTHUS NOX Bleeker.

Holacanthus nox Bleeker, Nat. Tijds. Nederl. Ind., v. 1853, p. 338; id., *ibid.*, xv, 1858, p. 200; Günther, Brit. Mus. Catal. Fish., ii, 1860, p. 51; Bleeker, Verh. Akad. Amsterdam, xvii, 1877, Chétod., p. 131; id., Arch. Néerl. Sci. Nat., xii, 1877, p. 22; id., Atlas Ichth., ix, 1877, p. 62, pl. ccelxviii, fig. 3; Macleay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, vii, pt. 2, 1882, p. 244.

Type locality:—Amboina.

Depth of body 1.7 in its length; dorsal contour rather more elevated than the ventral, its anterior profile linear and strongly acclivous to above the hinder border of the eye, thence by a moderate convexity to about the 4th dorsal spine, beyond which it descends in a long gentle curve to the middle of the soft dorsal, whence it bends more abruptly downwards to the caudal peduncle; ventral contour evenly convex from the chin to the anal, the base of which is similarly convex; least depth of peduncle 6.9 in the length of the body. Width of head 1.6 in its length, which is 1.25 in its depth and 3.65 in the body-length. Diameter of eye a little more than the length of the snout, which is 2.9 in that of the head; interorbital region a little wider than deep, its width 1.15 in the eye-diameter. Maxillary extending to below the anterior nostril. Preorbital coarsely denticulated, its width 1.4 in the eye-diameter. Hinder limb of preopercle vertical and strongly denticulate; the lower limb with three graduated teeth posteriorly, the strongest next to the spine, which is long and feebly curved, 1.75 in the length of the head and extends to below the pectoral-axil.

Scales similar to those of *H. bicolor*, in 48 series above and beyond the lateral line, in 6/1/22 between the spinous dorsal and the vent; squamulæ absent. Lateral line with 30 open pores, terminating below the middle of the soft dorsal.

Dorsal fin originating above the opercle, with xv 15 rays, the soft portion 2.1 in the length of the spinous; spines graduated, the 1st well developed, 1.85 in the last, which is 1.5 in the longest ray and 5.3 in the body-length; soft dorsal with acutely pointed outline, the 10th ray longest, extending to above the middle of the caudal, its hinder border linear. Caudal fin rounded, the middle rays longer than the outer and 4.3 in the length of the body. Anal fin with iii 17 rays, originating below the 11th dorsal spine, the 1st spine 1.6 in the last, which is 1.2 in the longest ray; soft anal similar to but longer and blunter than the soft dorsal. Pectoral with 16 rays, its length 3.5 in that of the body, the 5th ray

¹ Mem. Queensl. Mus., iii, 28 Jan. 1915, pp. 99-116.

longest, extending to below the 7th dorsal spine. Ventral a little longer than the pectoral, the spine 1.65 in the outer ray, which is not produced, is 3.35 in the body-length, and extends to midway between the vent and the anal.

Body and fins dark brown, except the spinous dorsal which, with the head, is strongly tinged with yellow, and the interradiar membrane of the ventral, which is nearly black.

Etymology.—Lat: *nox*, night, in allusion to its sombre coloration.

Reg. No. in Queensland Museum of specimen described—I. 14/2286.

Measurements of the unique Queensland example:—See below.

Range.—From the Moluccas eastward to the Gulf of Papua and the Barrier Reef.

This angel-fish, which is apparently of rare occurrence everywhere, was first described by Bleeker from a single example obtained at Amboina. Subsequently the same observer obtained three others from Goram. To the eastward Goldie collected a fifth specimen at or near Port Moresby, B.N.G., as recorded by Macleay. The example here described was collected by Mr. Kendall Broadbent probably in the neighbourhood of Cooktown, N.Q., whence the bulk of his collections labeled "Barrier Reef" came. The species was correctly identified by the late Mr. Charles W. de Vis, who, however, has not left any notice of its occurrence. These six form the only records of which I can find any account.

Dimensions.—A small species, the largest recorded only 111 millim.

In the table of measurements² this species would come between *H. flavissimus* and *H. bicolor*; from the former it differs in its habit and in the presence of an extra dorsal spine, from the latter, irrespective of coloration, in the absence of squamulae. Following are the measurements of the Queensland example in terms of the previous table.

Length from tip of longer jaw to that of caudal fin in millimeters—85.

Expressed in hundredths.

From tip of snout to base of middle caudal rays—100; greatest depth of body—59.4; least depth of caudal peduncle—14.5; greatest width of head—17.4; greatest depth of head—34.7; from tip of snout to end of bony opercle—27.5; from tip of snout to eye—9.4; horizontal diameter of eye—10.4; width between middle of eyes—9.1; height above middle of eyes—8.9; between eye and angle of mouth—5.3; length of preopercular spine—15.5; basal length of spinous dorsal—50; basal length of soft dorsal—24; length of first dorsal spine—10.1; length of last dorsal spine—18.8; length of longest dorsal ray—28; length of middle caudal rays—23.2; length of outer caudal rays—20.3; length of first anal spine—12.8; length of last anal spine—20.2; length of longest anal ray—22.5; length of soft anal—28.3; length of pectoral fin—29; length of ventral spine—18.1; length of ventral fin—29.7.

CHÆTODONTOPLUS DUBOULEYI (Günther).

Holacanthus darwiniensis Kent, Proc. Roy. Soc. Queensl., vi, 1890, p. 235.

Type locality.—Darwin, N.T. (*H. darwiniensis*).

On the 8th of April of the current year we received from Mr. L. H. Maynard of Bundaberg, to whom we are already indebted for many valuable

² *Ibid.*, p. 116.

donations, a magnificent specimen of this beautiful fish, together with a newspaper clipping recording the circumstances of its capture, and a rough sketch showing the life-colors of the fish, which conclusively proclaims it to be one of the most gorgeous fishes of any seas.

From the cutting we gather that the fish was washed ashore at the feet of Mr. Harold White, while watching the surf bathers in Hervey Bay, and was promptly annexed by him and brought to Mr. Maynard.

The example proves to be the largest on record, measuring over all 195 millim., and is for this reason of peculiar value as affording the opportunity to study the variations in form consequent on increasing age, the results of which are embodied in the following notes, which should be compared with our previous description.³

“Depth of body 1.7, of caudal peduncle 7.67 in the length of the body; diameter of eye 1.25 in the length of the snout and a trifle more than the inter-orbital width; preopercular spine much shorter, 3.1 in the length of the head and not nearly reaching to the level of the pectoral. Dorsal fin with 20 rays, the last spine 4.35 in the body-length.” The other characters vary but little.⁴

In life the ground-color is imperial purple shading gradually into the deep violet of the abdominal region, the nuchal-ventral collar, the dorso-caudal band, the caudal, pectoral, and ventral fins, and a broad band round the jaws chrome-yellow; all the dark part between the dorsal profile and the pectoral is profusely ornamented with yellow spots, while below that fin right to the caudal these are replaced by an interlacing network of narrow bars; the blue dorsal and anal bars are much more numerous and of a more intricate pattern than is shown in McCulloch's figure.

The locality constitutes a new record for Queensland.

³ Ibid., p. 112.

⁴ The lower lateral line previously referred to is not present in this fish, and should be omitted from the amended description.